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**Amendments to the Claims:**

1           **1. (Original)** Multi-bridge for use in a network that contains a plurality of  
2 subnetworks, wherein the multi-bridge comprises:  
3           for each subnetwork a set of at least two ports,  
4           the multi-bridge being operable to register which of the ports are used  
5 by a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN), wherein the multi-bridge is arranged to  
6 forward a data packet which is sent with an identifier that identifies the VLAN to  
7 those of the ports that the VLAN is registered to use,  
8           wherein the multi-bridge is operable to register upon receiving a data  
9 packet by one of the at least two ports of a particular set, that the VLAN identified  
10 by the identifier of the data packet uses the ports of the particular set, at least  
11 when the multi-bridge has not yet registered that the VLAN identified by the  
12 identifier of the data packet uses the particular set on which the data packet was  
13 received.

1           **2. (Original)** Multi-bridge according to claim 1, wherein the multi-bridge is  
2 further operable to de-register on the at least two ports of each set that is  
3 different from the set of which one of the at least two ports has received the data  
4 packet, if needed, the VLAN over which that data packet is sent.

1           **3. (Original)** Multi-bridge according to claim 2, wherein the multi-bridge is  
2 further operable to provide an alarm signal if within a predetermined time span  
3 and by a predetermined number of times one VLAN is successively registered  
4 and de-registered on one set.

1           **4. (Currently Amended)** Method for allocating a Virtual Local Area  
2 Network (VLAN) to one set out of a number of such sets on a multi-bridge,  
3 wherein each set comprises at least two ports for a subnetwork out of a plurality  
4 of such subnetworks which share the multi-bridge, wherein the method  
5 comprises:

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6            sending to one of the at least two ports of a set a data packet over a  
7    VLAN; and  
8            registering the VLAN over which the data packet is ~~send~~ sent on each  
9    of the at least two ports of the set of which one of the at least two ports has  
10   received the data packet.

1            **5. (Currently Amended)** Method according to claim 4, characterised in  
2    that, the method further comprises:  
3            de-registering on the at least two ports of each set that is different  
4    from the set of which one of the at least two ports has received the data packet, if  
5    needed, the VLAN over which that data packet is ~~send~~ sent.

1            **6. (Original)** Method according to claim 4, wherein the method  
2    comprises:  
3            providing an alarm signal if within a predetermined time and by a  
4    predetermined number of times one VLAN is successively registered and de-  
5    registered on one set

1            **7. (Original)** Network comprising a multi-bridge according to claim 1.